has been suffering a grave disadvantage vis-a-vis international competitors but for the high cost of packaging;

(b) if so, whether packaging in India costs upto 50 per cent of the product packed;

(c) if so, how it compares with the international standards and costs; and

(d) the steps being taken to the indus try?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI DILIP KUMAR RAY): (a) Growth of any industry including food proces'sing and other agro based industries wouid depend on seve-ral factors such as quality of the products, competitive coSt, sale price etc. Cost of packaging is one of the factor effecting the price.

(b) Packaging are of different types to suit the products packed and naturally the cost of packaging varies and is estimated to range from 15 to 30 per cent.

(c) While an accurate assessment of the cost of packaging in different coun tries may be difficult, cost of packaging' in certain cases in India may be relati vely higher.

(d) Various steps taken by the Govt, for promotion of food processing industries inter-alia include reductions of excise and customs duty on certain packaging materials like glass, paper and paper boards, aluminium foils and plastic. Ministry of Food Processing Industries '^ has also extended financial support for Research & Development activities related to packaging of processed foods.

Proposals from States|UTs for giving benefits to SCs/STs

*280. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals from the StateA^nion Territory Governments for the years 1996-97 and 1997-98 for giving benefits to the SCs/ST?

(b) if so, the detatils thereof; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Grant has been released against suitable proposals received in 1996-97 from State/U.T. Govt, which were complete in all respects. Grants have been released for some of the proposals received during Current year. Other proposal's are being I processed and money will b: released after they are found suitable in all respects. A staitement cooitaining State/UT-wise releases for the year 1996-97 and 1997-98 (updated) in respect of SCs and STs is given in the Annexure. *(See* Appendix I'Sl, Annexure No. 52)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTAR-RED QUESTIONS

कोल इंडिया लि. द्वारा अदा नहीं किए गए लाभांश को बकाया राशि

2016. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि **:**

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कोल इंडिया लि. ने उनके मंत्रालय की 1994-95 से लांभांश की अदायगी नहीं कि हैं,

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है,

(ग) कोल इंडिया लि. पर वर्ष 1994-95, 1995-96 और 1996-97 के लिए लाभांश की बकाया राशि का ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(घ) बकाया लाभांश को वसूल करने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए गए हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती कान्ति सिंह) : (क) से (ग) कंपनी अधिनियम, 1995 की धारा 205 में दिए गए प्रावधानों के अनुसार लाभांश का भुगतान केवल विभाज्य लाभ ही किया जा सकता